Live telecast of cricket series

399. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there was some controversy over the BCCI's deal on live telecast of cricket series with Australia commenced on 6th October, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the issue was resolved over the telecast rights; and

(d) whether Government would frame a long term policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The issue of award of telecast rights of BCCI is *sub-judice* and pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, Prasar Bharati entered into an agreement with BCCI on 03.10.2004 securing telecast rights of four test matches between India and Australia and two test matches between India and South Africa and one One Day International between India and Pakistan to be played in India.

Downlinking policy

400. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is giving final touches to the downlinking policy;

(b) whether the proposed policy is going to be mandatory for the television companies; and

(c) how the new proposed policy controls the pornographic channels aired through DTH?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Channels carried on the DTH Platform are governed by the DTH guidelines issued by the Government on 15.03.2001, which *inter alia* prohibit the DTH licensee from using its facilities for transmitting any objectionable or obscene content, message or communication inconsistent with the

laws of India and provide that the licensee shall adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Codes. DTH Licensee is also required to maintain recording of Programmes and Advertisements for the period of 90 days as per the provisions laid down in the Guidlines.

Community Radio Project

401. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the community radio project launched with much fanfare last year has failed to take off;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 50 institutions had applied for licenses and his Ministry after processing the applications, had recommended cases to the Department of Telecommunications for frequencies but till date, only one institute Anna University of Chennai has a low range radio station installed on its campus;

(c) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in installation of fequency stations; and

(d) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This Ministry has received 60 applications for licenses 26 Letters of Intent have been issued to the institutions whose applications have been cleared, of which, 13 institutions have signed License Agreement with this Ministry. Only one institution Anna University, Chennai has been granted SACFA clearance and Wireless Operating License by Ministry of Communication and the country's first Community Radio Station started functioning since 1st February 2004 at Anna University, Chennai. Rest of the 12 institutions are unable to commission the service as SACFA clearance and Wireless Operating license are pending with the Ministry of Communications.

(c) and (d) Initially this Ministry had to seek clearances from Ministries of Human Resource Development, Home Affairs, External Affairs and Defence and availability of frequency from Ministry of Communications. After seeking approval of the Cabinet, clearances from Ministry of External Affairs and Defence have been done away with except in sensitive areas. Home Ministry has been requested to define a suitable time frame for